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FTA news

FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA - CIO

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CIO Fights Rising Prices

With grim determination to protect the living standards of American workers, 300 CIO union officials met in a special emergency conference in Washington, D. C., on August 15.

Warning that labor cannot accept a stranglehold on wages while prices run wild, the CIO conference hammered out the following program:

WAGE INCREASES

"Labor cannot continue to participate in a stabilization program in which wages are rolled back while at the same time increases in the cost of living become a daily occurrence," the CIO conference said. "If the wage stabilization program is to continue, it must be revised to take account of the vast increase in prices and the increase in the cost of living which have occurred in the past six months. . . . We cannot accept a situation in which wages are frozen while the cost of living soars."

The CIO repeated its request of Truman to call a labor-industry conference to curb rising prices and to protect the wage and living standards of the people, and to officially recognize the need for immediate wage increases.

Another resolution attacked industry's cry for greater "productivity" by labor as merely a false alarm to conceal the fact that current shortages of goods stem from the all-out drive for bigger and better profits.

"The CIO repudiates any suggestion that the answer to our economic ills lies in the speed-up . . . ," the statement pointed out.

"The facts . . . demonstrate the selfish and greedy role which large-scale American monopoly is playing. Today there is 'full production.' While prices skyrocket, shortages of goods and materials persist.

"The plain fact is that big industry in this country has deliberately created scarcities and hoarded goods for the purpose of generating consumer pressure against OPA, and in pursuance of a conspiracy to depress the wage and living standards of the American people."

CONSUMER PRESSURE

Because of the inadequacy of the present price control law, the CIO called on its members to fight against inflation through buyers' strikes, organized protests against price increases, etc.

It called on CIO unions to participate in committees in each city to develop mass pressure against inflated prices, and to fight the relaxation of price controls by the OPA, the Department of Agriculture and the Price Decontrol Board.

TAX THE RICH

A progressive tax program to siphon off the super-profits of the rich and prevent inflation is being prepared to present to Truman and Congress.

BLASTS DECONTROL

The Price Decontrol Board came in for sharp criticism from Pres. Murray on August 21 for its failure to re-establish price controls on milk and dairy products, flour and bread.

He pointed out that the re-controlling of meats means little when the Board left livestock and poultry feed products free of controls. Such a situation encourages the meat industry to create shortages in order to force higher prices, meanwhile resorting to the black market to realize super-profits.

Murray charged the Price Decontrol Board with failing "in its responsibility to the American people." "Speculators greedy for profits are permitted a free hand to push prices up and thus increase the cost of living for the American worker. The Board's decision does not establish a hold-the-line policy."

Murray has asked the CIO to engage in the struggle against rising prices "in every voting precinct in the United States."

IN THE NEWS

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"Severe Struggles Lie Ahead" — Henderson's Labor Day Message

Library U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Washington D.C.

THIS Labor Day, 1946 finds the [illegible] industries and of all countries [illegible] most severe tests they have [illegible] meet.

Big Business, seeking [illegible] all the world's wealth and res[illegible]ied campaign. At the same t[illegible]ying to rob the workers of the ec[illegible]al gains made over the past years throu[illegible]ion and struggle.

The strength of the w[illegible] was never greater than it is today. In our own [illegible]ntry, the CIO and the FTA are at a new peak of organized power. FTA-CIO has won, and is still winning, successes on every front. Workers in the South are joining the CIO, and the FTA, in ever growing numbers.

Workers in the food processing, tobacco and allied industries are finding the answer to their problems in a democratic, honest union of their own choice—the FTA-CIO.

CIO leadership inspires all the working people of this country, and is admired and looked up to throughout the world. Wherever there is exploitation and oppression, its victims look to us with hope and confidence of liberation.

This very strength provokes our enemies to new acts of desperation. The direct attacks on our unions made by big business are proof of this, as is the attempt to destroy our living standards through inflationary increases in the cost of living.

With our allies, only a year ago, the American people celebrated the military defeat of German fascism and Japanese aggression. The workers of all freedom loving countries fought, bled and died to make that victory possible. Without this world unity of the working class, which the leaders of the AFL reject, the peoples of all countries would have been enslaved by German and Japanese fascism, fronting for their own brand of monopoly.

Today, acting through the Truman administration, American big business is trying to enforce its dictatorship on the free peoples of the world, especially those in the colonial countries so long dominated by English imperialism. Further, they are trying to rob even our allies of the democracy they are struggling to establish.

But the workers of this country and of the world will not allow reaction or new forms of fascism to prevail. The subject peoples of India, Africa, Asia are fighting their oppressors at every turn. In this country, the workers are building the CIO stronger every day to meet the reactionary attacks on their living standards and their freedom.

Severe struggles lie ahead. Nothing is ever won by workers without fighting. In unity with all workers, the free peoples of the world will beat back the reactionary drive toward new wars and new oppression and will win a life of freedom and equality for all.

FORWARD TO STILL GREATER VICTORIES IN LABOR'S NEW YEAR!

Local 186 Registers to Vote in November

Unregistered members of Local 186, Philadelphia, did more than take time off from work to go quietly and register to vote. They made a parade to get others on the move. Shown above are some of the 75 FTA and National Maritime Union members who marched down Broad Street with signs, union banners and a sound truck. On the left are FTA Organizer Carmen Parente and Thomas Taylor, two veterans who were out to urge all veterans to re-register, as they must in Pennsylvania and certain other states. The loud speaker blared "you cannot vote unless you register — all veterans must re-register — take time off from work to register . . . ," etc. Turning through the crowded streets of City Hall Square, the speaker called attention to the registration place inside City Hall.

Settle Your Beef With Congress

By CONNIE ANDERSON, Education Director and Acting Editor

WE STRUGGLE for independence—freedom to speak out and win the things we need. When a plant is organized, we gain an independent voice. We can bargain in a self-respecting way with the boss. We gain a voice in our wages and working conditions.

When we once get a union in the plant, it's no longer a question of "yes sir", "no sir," taking any conditions the boss offers, without the right to speak up for ourselves, to fight for our demands. Through our union, we have some independence. We can settle our "beefs."

We need the same sort of independence in politics. There, too, we have the right to organize to use our own strength for measures the people need: to protect and improve wages; stop price increases; win new, low-rent houses; health insurance; freedom from war; etc.

How do we organize independent political action? Through PAC. We write letters to Congressmen; register everybody in the local so they can vote; collect $1 PAC contributions 100%; join with CIO councils to endorse the best candidates on the basis of support for our program; educate the membership on the issues in the election.

That's all important—VERY important—but still does not add up to full independent political action. Why?

NEIGHBORHOOD ACTION

Where are the main political decisions made? In the communities, where ballots are cast.

Who do politicians listen to most? Community leaders who can bring out the vote.

Unless we are organized politically, no good people may be chosen to run. If we have had no voice in the choice of candidates, we may have to support someone who will only partly represent us, in order to keep a thorough reactionary out.

How can we influence choice of candidates to run? Only through *strong* political organization which can force choice of good candidates for office.

Power of the political parties is grounded in *ward* organization; and that's where our political power must be rooted if we are to have real independence in politics.

This means PAC Ward Clubs.

A number of FTA leaders in each local should become PAC Ward or Precinct leaders.

All officers, stewards and active members of FTA locals have a job to do as members of PAC Ward Clubs—canvassing, becoming thoroughly acquainted with the people and their problems in the neighborhood, in short, giving the progressive political leadership which people need.

PAC "STEWARDS"

A PAC precinct leader is like a steward in a plant. The precinct leader organizes the people to settle their grievances on the political front.

It's a tough job—and at first thought many good union people turn away in disgust. "So I should turn into a politician, a ward heeler—nothing doing," they say at first.

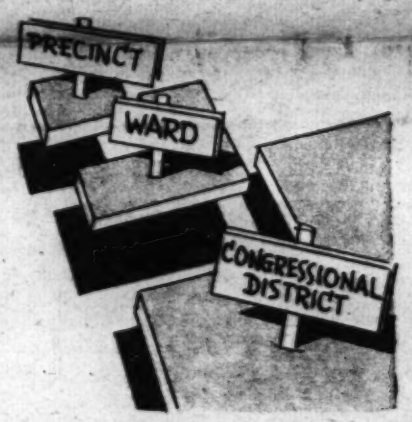
But wait a minute. A person is certainly right to be disgusted with the graft, sell-outs and rackets in most of the old-line machine politics. But these sell-outs will continue just so long as we fail to organize honest political organization in our own interests. Let's go!

HOW TO ORGANIZE

How are PAC Ward Clubs organized? The job cannot be blueprinted in every detail, because conditions vary locality by locality. But this is the general picture.

A meeting is called of the CIO people who live in the Ward. The CIO council can do this job by asking each local to supply members pledged for ward work. (Since time is already short it is best to concentrate on the key, active people who will get out and work—rather than trying to break down entire membership lists on a ward basis. The City or County Election Commission has the books and maps to use in dividing PAC workers up according to the Ward in which they live.)

At the first Ward meeting, a Chairman is chosen. Other PAC workers are put in charge of precincts.



The Ward and Precinct are the basic political units—but they sometimes go by different names. There are a number of wards in each Congressional District—and in connection with the campaign for Congressmen it is well to form a C.D. PAC committee to guide the work in the larger area.

Convassing of every home is the job to be accomplished. The canvassers work under the PAC precinct chairman, each assigned several blocks or in a thinly populated place, a small area.

STREET BY STREET

It is best to work with street lists, which are available from the registration commission. The street lists give the names of all registered voters.

This is where the door-bell ringing comes in. Shoe leather, patience and time are spent by PAC workers in contacting the people. From now until election day, PAC workers cannot call their souls their own—every bit of spare time, evenings and Sundays is spent campaigning in the neighborhood.

The canvasser by going into each house finds all those who are not registered, persuades them to get listed so they can use their right to vote. Community movements to register together at a certain time help in this job. As soon as a person is registered, the canvasser adds the name to the list of voters on the street.

In persuading people to support our candidates, PAC leaflets and pamphlets should be left in the homes of the people so they will have the facts and understand the issues. Sound trucks bolster the campaign.

ELECTION DAY

Closer to election day, canvassers note on their list those who are favorable to our candidates.

Then on election day, PAC workers use the canvassers' lists to bring people in to vote. (FTA locals should be ready to assign some of their best workers for election day activities.)

In building up the campaign, it is often helpful to confer with the workers of the political party on whose ticket our candidate is running. Joint work which strengthens the election possibilities of the candidate, can frequently be developed.

In developing the PAC Club, friends and neighbors who agree with our program should be welcomed. People outside our ranks who are sick and tired of the political run-around and who want to get to work on a good program should be encouraged to join with us. We need their enthusiasm and help.

PERMANENT PAC CLUBS

After election day, the PAC Club works in the interests of the people. Such a club can exert great influence on the votes and actions of elected officials. Congressmen listen to Ward Clubs. This is no accident, for ward clubs mean votes, POWER. When it comes to choosing candidates in the next election, these established PAC clubs can make demands and make them stick.

Such independent political action talks. Neighborhoods take on life, just like a plant, when a good union starts moving. No more boot-licking, no more begging for consideration. With independent political action, we have the power to demand, and to win. That's PAC Ward organization.

Locals confronted with special problems in building PAC Ward Clubs should contact Elizabeth Sasuly, FTA Washington Representative, 1307 H St., N.W., Washington 5, D.C.

Register Now to Vote in November

To qualify as a voter in the November general elections, you must be registered. These are the registration deadline dates in the following states:

State	Last day to register
Arizona	Sept. 30
California	Sept. 25
Delaware	Oct. 21
Colorado	Oct. 26
Iowa	Oct. 26
Illinois	Oct. 7
Indiana	Oct. 6
Maryland	Varies locally
Michigan	Oct. 16
Minnesota	Oct. 16
Missouri	Varies locally
Nebraska	Oct. 25
New Jersey	Sept. 25
New York (Central registration)	Sept. 30

Neighborhood Registration:
New York City—Oct. 7 to 19;
Cities over 5,000—Oct. 4, 5, 11, 12;
Cities under 5,000—Oct. 5 and 12.

Ohio	Oct.	7
Oklahoma	Oct.	25
Oregon	Oct.	5
Pennsylvania	Sept.	14
Washington	Oct.	21
West Virginia	Oct.	5
Wisconsin	Oct.	25

Vets Take Note:

In a number of states veterans must register, even if they were on the books as qualified voters before they left for the Armed Services.

FTA news

Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers Union of America — CIO

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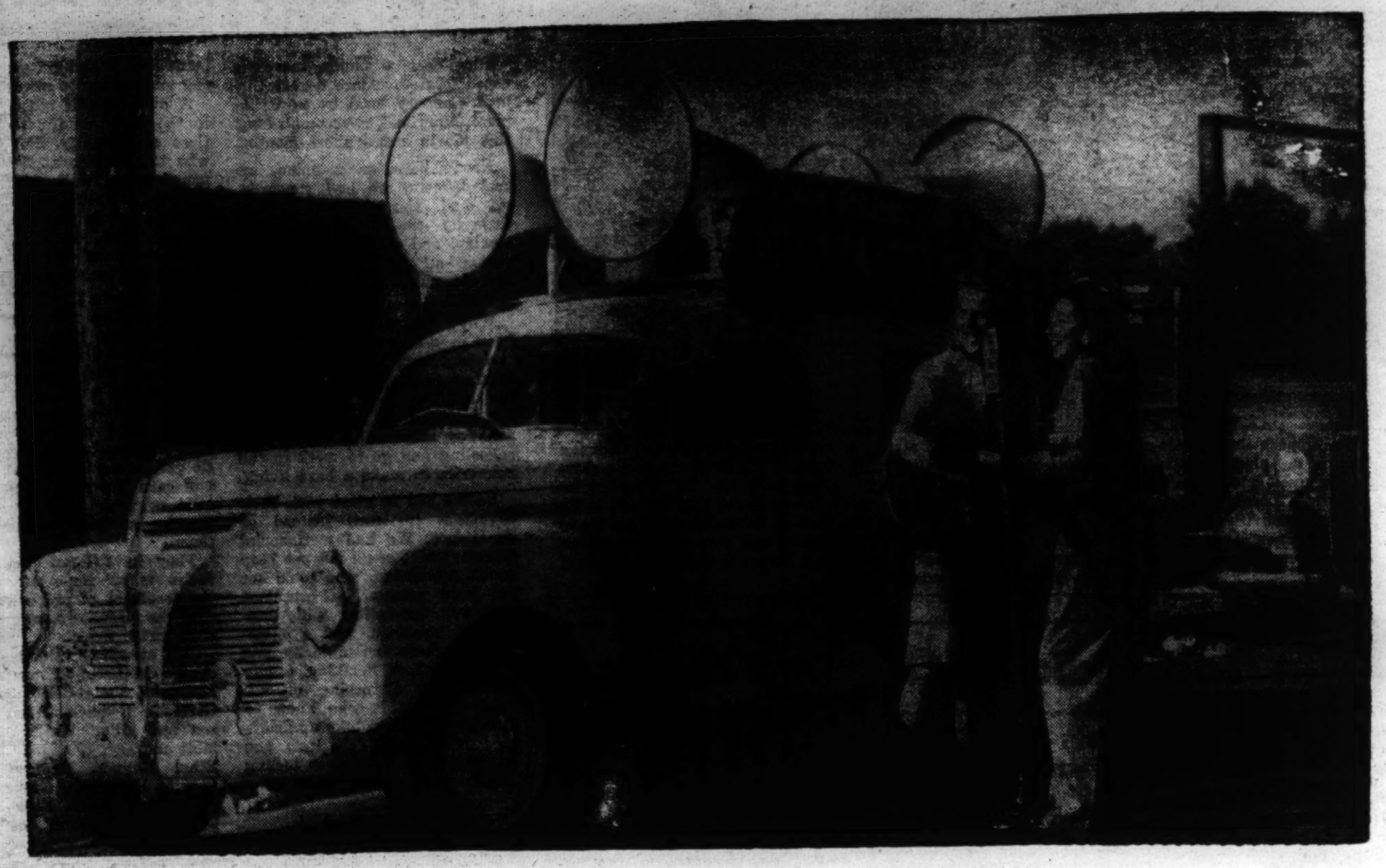
California Victory In Sight



Singing organizers Janey McHarg and Mara Alexander use music as an organizational weapon outside one of the big canneries in San Jose, California. Every noon hour, thousands of cannery workers gather around the "FTA Victory Special" to join in singing songs like "The CIO's a Workers' Union," "The Teamsters Don't Give a Hang About Me," and "We'll Get the FTA." They mean it!

Henderson Sees Victory In Nation's Biggest NLRB Election Since Ford

The largest NLRB election in the country since Ford went CIO in 1941 is rolling down the home stretch as FTA News goes to press. With voting set for August 29 and 30, the biggest mobilization of CIO organizers in California's history went into action to line up a thumping majority for FTA among some 70,000 cannery workers.

At the same time, AFL Teamsters officials, racked by fears of defeat, have been dividing their time and energy between red-baiting FTA and denouncing the whole election as "illegal."

FTA election arguments have stuck to the issues. Wages, piece rates, overtime pay for overtime work, adjustment of grievances, and the need for an honest, democratic CIO union are the main points emphasized to the cannery workers.

Apparently the red-baiting by the AFL bureaucrats has little effect on the cannery workers, who absorb FTA's leaflets, radio spechees, the Cannery Worker and other campaign material while leaving the Teamster stuff to litter the streets around the plant gates.

As election time drew near, the FTA drive moved toward protection of the vote and of the ballot boxes from goon squad tactics.

In a special pre-election message, FTA President Donald Henderson warned against possible Teamster attempts to steal a "victory" out of defeat.

"FTA is ready for these tricks," he said, "and is quite confident they will fail. And what's more, the election victory will stick — because the verdict will be a clear, thumping majority for FTA-CIO."

Aid has come from the national CIO as well as the state people. Following a special radio speech to cannery workers, CIO President Philip Murray sent Secretary-Treasurere James B. Carey to California to help in the FTA campaign.

Carey has made several radio speeches, despite the attempt of the ABC network to rule him off the air, and is making personal appearances at a number of mass meetings.

From all indications, it looks like a clear victory for FTA. The union has stuck to the issues, has based its appeal on the workers' beefs, not on red-baiting, and will win in a fair showdown.

Ballots will be counted either before or directly after Labor Day, September 2. After the victory, cannery workers in northern California will have the opportunity to build themselves an honest, democratic union run by and for cannery workers.

FAIL TO GAG MURRAY

By C. W. FOWLER, Publicity Director

A sharp roar of protest went up in San Francisco and throughout California when radio station KGO, owned by the American Broadcasting Co., attempted to prevent Cannery Workers in the Bay area from hearing a radio speech by CIO Pres. Philip Murray.

The gag, which was frustrated by FTA securing time for the Murray speech on station KYA, was attempted by a Mr. Searle, western vice-president of ABC, apparently in charge of keeping labor off the air.

Said Searle to FTA Pres. Donald Henderson: "I do not propose to inflict Philip Murray on the people of the Bay area."

Murray's speech, which is a highlight of FTA-CIO's drive to win a majority of 70,000 cannery workers in an NLRB election, was subsequently broadcast at least six times — once over KYA in San Francisco itself, and after that in cannery towns throughout the northern and central part of the state.

Indicative of the general public's amazement at Searle's action was an eight column, banner headline in the biggest type the San Francisco Chronicle could find saying, "MURRAY PLEA FOR CIO CANNERS IN NLRB VOTE RULED OFF AIR." Similarly large headlines were in other papers, with the exception of the Hearst morning paper, which for some reason totally ignored the news.

Denouncing the attempted gag on free speech by ABC, Henderson said:

"This happens to be the largest election ever to be held west of the Mississippi, and the largest NLRB election held since the Ford Motor Co. vote in 1941.

"To try to pretend, as Searle and ABC pretend, that this is not of general interest is a brazen attempt to cover up the real reasons for trying to rob the cannery workers of their right to hear the voice of the great leader of the CIO, Philip Murray."

FROM THE FRONTLINES:

FTA-CIO victory in the California cannery elections grows more certain hourly. CIO aid, a basic organizing staff that works day and night, and above all the enthusiasm of the cannery workers themselves will result in a decisive majority of votes when NLRB officials finish counting the votes cast in the 77 canneries.

Cannery workers and CIO members were warned by FTA against AFL last-minute provocations, terrorization, intimidation within plants themselves. They'll try to frighten workers into AFL votes, using fear as a weapon. Only sure defense by FTA: build stronger plant committees.

* * *

THE rag issued weekly by AFL Teamsters cannery company-union combine, under the title of "AFL Cannery Reporter," provides a bellyful of laughs. Those boys are scared—jittering like jello sliding down a washboard. Plumb hysterical.

Vicious attacks on the NLRB mark the latest AFL Cannery Reporter. It screams, in big front-page stories for a "clean sweep" in the regional NLRB, and threatens that otherwise "Northern California and its millions of workers and its industries are almost certain to see a period of strife and work stoppages such as it has never before experienced."

* * *

YEP, it's the same old Teamo-cannery combine that pressured the same NLRB last fall to invalidate the October, 1945, election in which FTA licked the pants off them. That was a rough decision against FTA. But FTA hung tough, fighting for the workers' rights despite the illegal 'closed shop' that cannery managements handed their Teamster stooges.

Now FTA is clearly in shape again, to wallop the Teamo-company combine—so clearly that Teamouthpieces are hollering "Foul!" even before the balloting begins. They're inside the plants, with bosses' aid and blessing; FTA is excluded; but they're claiming cards are stacked against them in this second election too.

* * *

ONE of the bosses in the plants told a worker to stick to the AFL Teamsters. "We don't want the Russians to get in the canneries," he said. But she went and told her fellow-workers, "That louse thinks I fell for his line. As soon as you get people and a union fighting for our rights, the bosses and their stooges start to call them 'Communists' and 'Red.' They never stopped calling President Roosevelt 'Red' until the day of his death. It's funny they never red-baited Herbert Hoover."

What can you do with that kind of crew? Answer: Give them such a licking at the polls that public and cannery workers alike will jeer them clean out of the plants. FTA is about to do that with CIO aid.

* * *

TALK about cannery strikes and work stoppages that will result if FTA wins, is just so much Teamomanure. Don Henderson puts it simply: "FTA is going to win—and there's not going to be a strike in the canneries. FTA is not going to call a strike, and the Teamster officials neither can nor dare. They're company union stooges, and the bosses won't have a strike stoppage, or Teamo blockade during the profitable September-October operations. They'll only go for it when it doesn't amount to anything, like last March. Cannery bosses are profit-minded."

United Council of Quaker Oats Locals

Five FTA Quaker Oats locals are developing their united strength through a Joint Council. Common problems in the plants, contract provisions and organization of the other Quaker plants were thoroughly discussed and planned at the three-day August meeting. Delegates from the following locals attended: Local 19, Memphis, Tenn.; Local 110, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; Local 115, Depew, N.Y.; Local 120, Akron, Ohio; Local 125, St. Joseph, Mo. The Peterboro, Canada delegates were unable to attend. Front row (l. to r.): Lee Lashley; Don Martin; John Malarik; Hugh Moneypenny, Council Chairman; Brownie Amborski; and Wesley Kopecky. Back row (l. to r.): James Walsh; Kenneth Loy; Thomas Hayes; and Louis Jedlicka.

Contract Gains

Win Top Indiana Cannery Rates

By William Ayres,
President Local 29

Climaxing a whirlwind organizing drive, Local 29 signed a contract on August 2 with the Columbia Conserve Co. in Indianapolis, Ind.

Minimum rates were set at 75c an hour for men and 65c for women, with an additional five cents an hour automatic increase every 30 days. At the end of 60 days, men will receive a minimum of 85c an hour and women 75c. These increases which are retroactive to June 25, make Columbia Conserve the highest paid soup cannery in Indiana. An additional five cent increase is scheduled for January 1, 1947.

The new contract provides a union shop and check-off of dues and assessment.

Another big gain for the 250 workers employed at peak was the elimination of the seasonal exemption from overtime. During tomato season, all employees will now receive time and a half for work over 40 hours a wek.

Settlement of the contract was reached following a strike vote taken by the union. Local 29 was recognized by the company as the bargaining agent after a card check last June revealed an overwhelming majority for FTA.

Officers of the Local are William Ayres, Pres.; Samuel Riggin, Vice-Pres.; Jack Broderick, Fin. Secy.; Gertrude Davis, Rec. Secy.; Anna Wheatley, Alfred Hall and Connie Smith, Trustees; and Warren Cool, Sgt.-at-Arms. Negotiations were assisted by Int. Org. John Sloan and Regional Rep. Jim Barnett.

Exemptions Licked

Union shop, check-off and a 10c an hour across the board increase were some of the gains won by Local 37 in their first contract signed with the Jersey Creamery Division of Beatrice Foods, Inc., in New Castle, Ind.

Other gains include time and a half pay over 40 hours a week year round, thus eliminating overtime exemption; vacations of one week for one year, one week's paid sick leave after one year; 48-hour guaranteed work week, and $5.50 a week increase for drivers. All provisions of the contract are retroactive to May 24, according to Regional Rep. Kenneth Hirschy.

Vets Benefitted

Negotiations for a new contract between Local 52 and the Libby, McNeill and Libby plant in Morrison, Ill., ended in an 11½c an hour general increase with a wage re-opening clause.

Time and a half pay year round for over 40 hours a week, Sundays and holidays was won through elimination of the overtime exemption clause.

Job security for newly-employed veterans was won through a clause awarding them seniority accumulated at double the rate of their employment time, to match time spent in the Armed Forces, according to International Organizer John Sloan.

15c in Decatur

A 15c an hour wage increase retroactive to April 29 was won for the 200 employees of the Central Soya Co., Decatur, Indiana, in Local 44's sixth contract signed there recently. The new contract also contains a wage reopening clause.

Vacations were improved to one week for one year and two weeks for two years.

Kraft Foods Local 93, also of Decatur, won a 15c an hour across the board increase retroactive to July 1. The contract signed July 19 provides a wage reopening clause for December 1.

Vacations were improved to one week for one year and two weeks for three years. Night shift bonus was increased from four to five cents an hour.

This is the third contract Local 93 has signed with Kraft Foods. They already have a union shop, check-off and good grievance machinery, according to Regional Rep. Kenneth Hirschy.

Louisiana Local Gains Strong Contract

Penick and Ford, Local 309 in Harvey, Louisiana, has negotiated a guarantee of a minimum of 1680 hours work per year in its new contract, which also calls for minimum wages of 71 and 76 cents an hour. Leading the area in conditions, the Penick and Ford workers are fighting the bosses' notion that Southern wages and conditions must be lower. A 16 cent general increase was won in May. The new contract includes a wage reopening clause. Members of the Negotiating Committee are (l. to r.): Walter Williams; Burbank Richard; Marie Berward; and Bob Blanchard. International Organizer Albert O'Brien assists them.

How Baltimore Built A Strong, Active Local

By HAROLD KOTZKER, International Organizer

How does a young, inexperienced local turn into a real Union? Cannery local 87 in Baltimore, Maryland, is accomplishing this job in a few short months.

Newly born, as a union, we had officers, we had stewards, we had the army to back them up—the members. We had loyalty, and spirit and determination—all the appearances of being a union. Yet we were not a union.

Why? Because none had ever been in a union before. No one had any training. As a matter of fact, most of the members are almost completely illiterate—a result of the fact that whole families are forced to give up schooling and go to work in the canneries to make a bare living.

So we had to start with their eagerness to learn instead of experience. We had a financial secretary who could not yet keep books, a secretary who could not yet keep minutes, a president who was unfamiliar with conducting meetings, and a membership where the majority had never heard of "making a motion." Most disturbing of all, we had stewards who knew so little about how to take up grievances that they felt lost, and transmitted this hopeless feeling to the members themselves.

STEWARDS' SCHOOL

Obviously we needed schooling—schooling in the "know how" of trade unionism.

With the aid of the excellent outline supplied by FTA Education Director Connie Anderson, a Stewards School was started on July 23. The International Organizer was the instructor. He felt it to be the best down-to-earth way of overcoming the problems of the local.

At first, the start of the tomato season was an obstacle. This was solved by meeting on Sundays. But later the employers were convinced by the Union that it was to their interests to give stewards the time off in order to assure the best operation of the contract. And the employers agreed to excuse stewards of all the plants from work between five and six every Tuesday and Friday to attend classes.

A lot of credit must be given to the stewards for their sacrifices and loyalty. For workers who start work at five in the morning and work for 12 to 18 hours at a stretch, it really takes stamina to attend their union school. Also, their attendance usually means voluntarily giving up an hour's pay.

The results? They've been amazing! The union has a new lease on life now because the stewards have new strength and confidence and success in their day to day work. From timid, shrinking and awkward representatives, they now stand solidly on their own two feet. They settle grievances in a direct fashion and earn the respect and gratitude of their fellow workers—thereby building the union about them.

They have learned, too, that theirs is an important role in the forefront of union activities. And the classes go on regularly, week after week.

The stewards attending these classes in Local 87 are: Judson McDaniel, Viola Bell, Ida Evans, Gertrude Reddick, Harry Simpson and Allen Waller of Lord Mott cannery; Chappelle Hudson, Ethel Haynes, George Ashlx, Charles Buchanan, Grace Brookins, George Clark, Elmore Clayborn and Nathaniel Coleman of Gibbs-Booth cannery.

PRACTICE AT MEETINGS

Meanwhile, in their daily work the officers are trying conscientiously to improve their tasks. Executive Board meetings and membership meetings are classes in themselves. In addition, a class in reading and writing is scheduled to start as soon as the season slows down.

Everyone is learning the point of view that the union is not merely wages, hours, conditions and settlement of grievances. It is a way of life—the clearest explanation of why we fight not only on the economic front, but the legislative, social and political fronts as well.

ORGANIZING AT DAWN

We want to pay special tribute to Annie Ambler, Novella Jackson, Kathleen Wostoniszak, Mary Barnes, Antonio Lopez, Ida Evans, Allen Wallter and Viola Bell. These Lord Mott workers met at the union office at 4:30 the other morning to distribute leaflets at unorganized canneries and bring the union's message to fellow workers at other plants.

Tony and Mary, for instance, had to walk four miles to get there since the trolleys weren't running that early. And the others all had to give up between one and two hours' pay. But Annie Ambler expressed what they all felt when she said, "I'm glad to sacrifice time and money to do this because I realize what the union has done for me and my people, and I want to see everybody benefit by it."

Now we can say we do have a union in Baltimore. We're beginning to do a job now—in the plants, in PAC and in activizing numbers of other committees.

The sacrifice of the members in terms of money, in time and energy, are now applied in an organized fashion—with results. We are proud of our union; proud of its members. To all the good qualities we had before we added the one thing which breathed life into our work—we added the "know-how."

It's C—E—O in the CIO, for us: Consolidation, Education and Organization. And FTA now also means "Forward to Activity."

Picket Line Conference

Tom Jackson, Chairman of the Winston Leaf division of Local 22, Winston-Salem, N.C., discusses strike strategy with Louise Barber (left), and Marie Jackson (right). Sister Barber keeps the picket books and records straight, and Sister Jackson is Secretary of the Relief Committee for Winston Leaf.

Leaf Workers Buck Strike-Breaking Moves

Singing, disciplined and united picket lines are maintaining a solid strike at Winston and Piedmont Leaf houses, Winston-Salem, N.C., in spite of refusal of city authorities to "license" the collection of strike relief, and in spite of police strike-breaking action, accompanied by the arrest of Local 22 Director Phil Koritz and five pickets.

"We will bend over backwards to keep the peace," said Koritz, "but we will not budge an inch on the workers' lawful rights to maintain an orderly picket line," said Koritz demanding police neutrality.

A picket line 3,000 strong stood solid in the path of a truck seeking entrance into the Piedmont leaf plant on August 23. Police forced the pickets back, to allow the truck to enter. Koritz and five others were arrested and held in custody until released after a telephone call from Koritz to Gov. Cherry of North Carolina. They were ordered to appear in Municipal Court the following week. Meanwhile, the union has arranged a meeting with the Governor.

Night workers at R. J. Reynolds (Camels) who had joined the Piedmont picket line, did not return to work until Koritz was released and a Union meeting held.

Striking furniture workers at Thomasville sent a representative to Winston-Salem with a message of solidarity.

Four days before, the August 23 incident, a police officer broke the picket line by threatening to crack heads in order to allow a truckload of pipe to go through. He did this in spite of the fact that there were other doors where there were no pickets, and even though the union had been allowing such trucks to be unloaded.

Next day, picket lines were again broken in the same manner. After a hasty conference between police, company and truck driver, the truck unloaded a few pieces of lumber and pulled out.

The Union tried to stop these "deliberate attempts to provoke trouble," according to Koritz. At a conference with the chief of police, "it was understood by us that the police would not push the pickets around and would remain completely neutral.

"We were assured the pickets would have the opportunity to peacefully persuade people not to break the picket lines."

City authorities have tried to weaken the strike also by invoking a city law requiring a license to solicit funds for "charitable purposes," and then failing to grant the strikers such a license.

The strike began late in July, following refusal of the Winston and Piedmont leaf companies to grant a 65c minimum wage, a substantial wage increase and year-round overtime after 40 hours. They have steadfastedly refused to arbitrate the issues.

Workers Vote FTA In 35 Alaska Canneries

Residents of Southeast Alaska, house wives from small towns and wives of fishermen who depend on the two months' or so work each Summer in the salmon canneries to make a family living, have finally won their long struggle for FTA which started in 1938. Workers in 35 canneries which employ up to 1,600 workers at peak, voted 481 for FTA-CIO to 451 for AFL. (Some challenged and impounded ballots may change the totals, but FTA's victory is secure.)

It was one of the most hard-fought election campaigns in recent FTA history, according to Northwest Regional Director Wendell Phillips who went to Alaska to lead the organizing drive.

A high pressure campaign of misrepresentation has been waged by the AFL for some time throughout the entire scattered area.

AFL SELL-OUTS

Back-door agreements with the Industry have been the stock-in-trade of Lundberg's Seafarer's AFL outfit, which appeared on the ballot as the "Alaska Marine Workers' Union."

"They have never negotiated a genuine agreement, but have accepted whatevr the Industry offered, and then taken over our contracts word for word after we had won them," said Phillips.

All the Alaska canned salmon workers who go from the states to Alaska for the season, are under contract with FTA Local 7 in Seattle, Washington. FTA has also negotiated contracts for some of the resident workers, although their bargaining strength was weak until they started uniting in FTA.

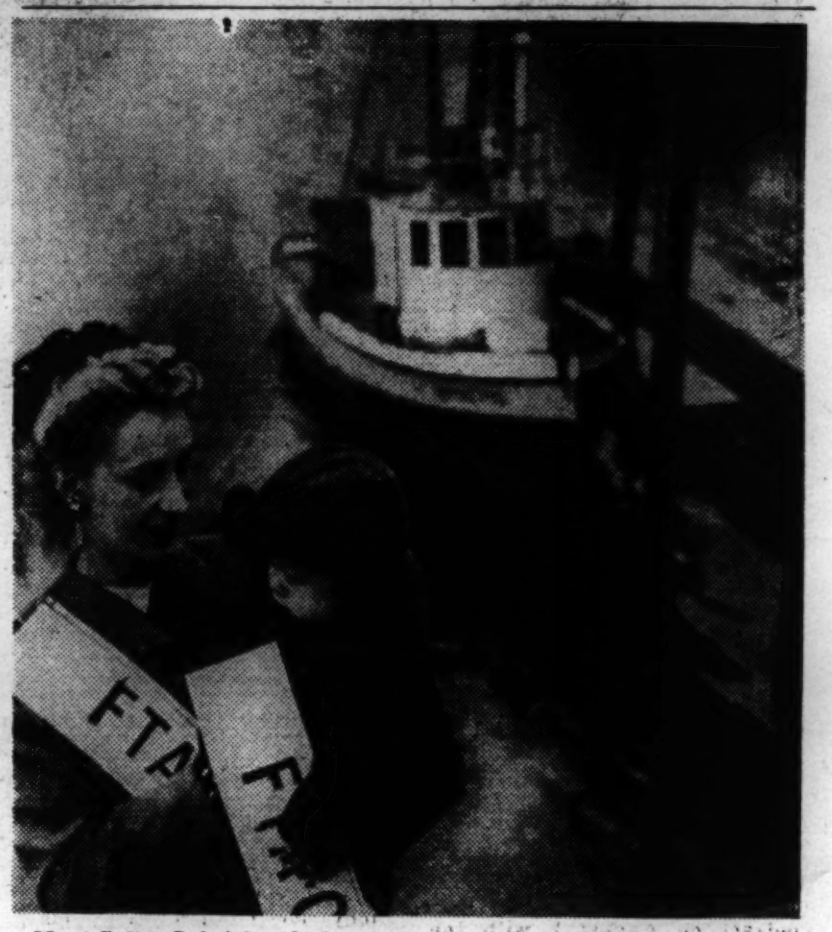
Last year an anti-CIO organization called the Alaska Native Brotherhoods formally merged with Lundberg's AFL hodge-podge. Combined, they hoped to defeat FTA in the canneries. But that was to be just a jumping off place to move against all CIO Unions in Southeast Alaska, including CIO Fishermen, Longshoremen and Lumber workers.

The FTA election victory spikes this disruptive scheme. And the cannery workers are now free to build democratic locals for a united struggle for better conditions.

MAYOR IS IN FTA

In Metlakatla, an Indian reservation, the cannery is owned by the people of the town. The Mayor is a member of FTA Local 251, as well as two of the town's policemen, one or whom was the first Secretary of the Local.

But the cannery is leased on a 50-50 basis to an operator, a member of Alaska Salmon Industry, the canners' organization, who has exploited the workers as viciously as if he owned the cannery himself. He has ever "forgotten" to pay the workers their seasonal guarantee.



Mrs. Sally Gabriel, Alaska cannery worker, with young son on the picket line this Spring. The resident workers won a minimum $1.06 an hour as the result of the strike.

Demands of the Alaska resident workers include:

- Adequate seasonal guarantee, equivalent to that of the non-resident workers who now are paid for two months' work, no matter what. The workers will ask for eight hours' pay for every day the cannery operates, plus every day of the season.
- 40-hour week and time and one-half for hours over that. Now they work 48 hours with a messed-up overtime provision which does not equal time and one-half.
- Payment by the Industry for 50 percent of the cost of operating the FTA hiring halls.
- Increased pay to make up for the skyrocketing cost of living in Alaska.

These demands will be included in the proposed contract with the Industry next year.

Outstanding FTA leaders in the campaign, according to Phillips, were International Representatives George Woolf and Ruth Hayes; Mrs. Ethel Moran, Business Agent of Local 237, Ketchikan; George Lawson, President of Local 251, Metlakatla; and Mrs. Ann McDonald, Business Agent of Local 222, Petersburg.

Welcome, Alaska Workers

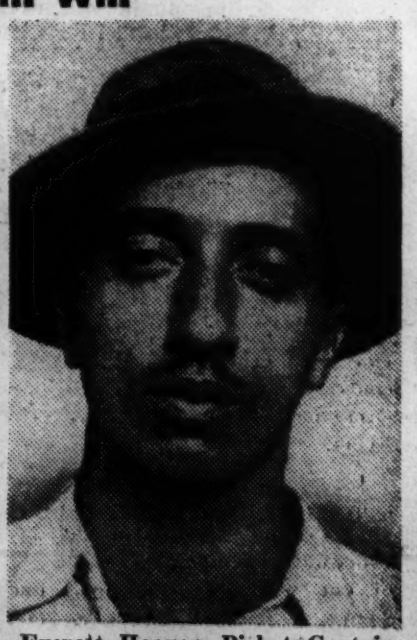
FTA is proud that our Union includes Alaska workers and we rejoice with you in final success in establishing bargaining rights of the FTA locals of resident workers. We hope your representatives will be at our next Convention so that FTA delegates from all over the states will become personally acquainted with you.

"By the Help of God, We Will Win"

Solomon McDonlad (left) and Howard Foy (right) chat after finishing their turn on the picket line. "This is the first strike I have been in, and I want to say it's a good thing," says Brother McDonald. "In 1932 I worked for 15c an hour, and I still feel the effects of that."

Henrietta Patterson, Picket Captain and Chairman of the Piedmont Relief Committee: "We are out to win better and fuller lives for ourselves and our families."

Mildred Gilliam, Picket Captain and Shop Steward, Winston Leaf: "We are maintaining a continuous picket line around the plant, and the morale of the strikers is fine."



Everett Hoover, Picket Captain at Piedmont Leaf: "If the boss can hold out, we can. We stay out as long as he does. We are out to win."

ON THE WORLD FRONT:

SPAIN:

CIO-sponsored public meetings to urge our government to break relations with Franco Spain, have been called for by the CIO Executive Board, according to a letter July 29 from Secretary-Treasurer James Carey.

Allan S. Haywood, CIO Director of Organization, has instructed all CIO Regional Directors to call these anti-Franco meetings and to undertake other free Spain activities in the localities.

The CIO action is part of world trade union anti-Franco action launched by the World Federation of Trade Unions.

Recent Allied Labor News dispatches report that the Franco dictatorship has asked the U. S. for a $500,000,000 loan to bolster it against the growing movement for a democratic government in Spain.

CHINA:

Both the AFL and the CIO sent sharp messages of protest to Chiang Kai-shek against Chinese government suppression of the Chinese Association of Labor and seizure of a hospital and two welfare centers donated by American labor to the Chinese Association of Labor.

The CIO is asking the U. S. State Department and the Chinese ambassador to investigate the seizure.

Pres. Murray's letter to Chiang Kai-shek said, ". . . American workers . . . all hope for a unified, democratic China in which all basic rights and freedoms of man including the freedom of labor organization are guaranteed."

Chu Hsueh-fan, Chinese Labor Association president, asked for the immediate withdrawal of U. S. troops from "participation in China's civil war."

FDR'S POLICY BETRAYED:

Elliott Roosevelt, son of the late President, charges that the path of Big Three Unity charted by his father "has been grievously, and deliberately forsaken" by men in our country "who should know better." Young Roosevelt makes these charges in a book about his father—"As He Saw It"—which deals with the inside story of FDR's dealings with Churchill and Stalin.

He places the blame on "the career men in the State Dept. whom Father never trusted . . . the reactionaries of both parties in Congress . . . the men who have shrunk our foreign policy down to the size of the atom bomb, the Army officers who are prepared to condemn civilization to a heap of rubble."

The unity which won the war did not weaken until Secy. of State James Byrnes yielded to the demands of men like Senator Arthur Vandenberg and the Hearst-Roy Howard-McCormick press for a "get tough with Russia" policy, Roosevelt says.

PAC Issues Materials

CIO-PAC is on the warpath to bring action from November candidates on issues such as housing, rising prices, anti-discrimination, security and foreign policy.

Below are some of the materials it has prepared for your local to make use of in the coming election campaign.

Up-to-date Voting Records of Congress—in a special edition of CIO NEWS which also discusses the issues at stake. Order from CIO NEWS, 718 Jackson Place, Washington, D. C. ($15 for 500; $4 for 100).

PAMPHLETS: (five to 49 copies—five cents each, or $3.50 per hundred)

What Every Voter Should Know and Do in 1946—important step-by-step information on registration, community organization and canvassing for every citizen.

There's No Place Like Home—facts about the housing crisis.

Let Our People Live—why and how we must get the 65-75c minimum.

When A Worker Needs A Friend—a program for social security.

LEAFLETS:

What IS PAC—($2.35 per thousand.)

Wake Up Your Congressman For $1—PAC in action. (free from FTA Educational Dept.)

Order leaflets and pamphlets from CIO-PAC, 205 E. 42nd St., New York.

Local 75 Member First Negro On Texas Ballot

By Jack Frye, Local 75 Organizer

Local 75 won an important victory in the Democratic primaries in Houston, Texas, with the election of Roger Adams as Chairman of Precinct 48. Adams, chief steward at the Terminal Warehouse Co., is the first Negro leader to appear on a Democratic primary ballot in Texas. At the County Democratic Convention, he was elected a delegate to the State Democratic Convention.

This is the first time that Negroes have taken part in Texas primaries and Democratic conventions, following a 1944 Supreme Court decision against "lily-white" primaries.

20,000 LEAFLETS

Adam's election was just part of the Local's PAC campaign. It also helped to form a committee of civic clubs, CIO, AFL, and independent unions, which sponsored five pre-election rallies to get out the vote for progressive candidates. Some 20,000 leaflets were distributed by the committee at plant gate meetings.

In Precinct 48, where most Local 75 members live, the voting was like never before. In contrast to 200 people voting in the 1944 election, this year over 50 people couldn't vote because the polls were too crowded. Voting lines continued all day, sometimes as much as two blocks long. Pressure from labor and liberal groups caused the polling place to be moved to larger quarters for the run-off elections.

Local 75's job in the precinct brought Homer Rainey, anti-monopoly candidate for Governor, 1720 votes to 17 for his opponent who is backed by big Texas oil interests.

Leaders in the Local's election activity were Rogers Adams, Prince Jenkins, R. H. Smith, A. Richardson and Jack Frye.

ROGER ADAMS,
Precinct Chairman

HERE ARE YOUR FACTS

FTA Cannery Gains

By JOSEPH CALIFF, Research Director

What have FTA cannery workers been able to accomplish toward improving their wages and working conditions? The answer to this question is given by an analysis of FTA cannery contracts just completed by the Research Department. Here are some of the facts brought out by the analysis:

WAGE INCREASES

Since V-J Day FTA has won wage increases totaling more than $9,000,000.00 for the cannery workers it represents. This means an average of $330.00 extra pay per year for each of the more than 28,000 workers receiving these increases.

In terms of hourly wages these increases amount to approximately 18c an hour on the average. Half of our workers have gotten raises of 20c an hour or more. 63% have gotten 18c or better.

MINIMUM WAGES

Our union has established a minimum wage of 65c per hour or higher in plants which employ nearly 90% of all FTA cannery workers.

More than three-fourths of all FTA cannery workers are in plants where the minimum wage is now 75c an hour or higher. A minimum of $1.00 an hour or better is now paid in plants employing 21% of our union members.

It was only a few years ago that the minimum wage in these plants was 25 to 30c an hour; in some it was even lower.

OVERTIME PAY

FTA has succeeded in off-setting the over-time pay exemptions in the Wage and Hour Law, which discriminate against food processing workers. Over 90% of all FTA cannery workers now enjoy better premium pay for over-time work than is required by the Wage and Hour Law.

More than half of our workers get time and one-half after forty hours a week the year round, including the seasonal pack.

UNION SECURITY

Almost 95% of FTA cannery workers are protected by union security clauses in the form of union shop, closed shop or maintenance of membership. This means that these workers have protection against attempts by the boss to destroy the union and bring back the low wages and bad conditions which prevailed before the union came in.

Contracts covering almost 90% of the workers have dues check-off provisions which guarantee the financial stability of the union.

VACATIONS

FTA has won vacation pay for 100% of the cannery workers it represents, except for several highly seasonal plants which operate only a few weeks of the year.

Nearly one-half of the workers get two week's vacation after one year or less of service.

Seasonal workers also share in vacation benefits in plants employing a majority of our workers.

SENIORITY

All FTA cannery contracts contain seniority clauses protecting the job rights of employees on the basis of their length of service. Workers with the greatest seniority get preferential treatment in cases of lay-offs, rehiring and promotions. Most contracts make specific provision for keeping up-to-date seniority lists which are either posted in the plant or are open to inspection by the workers.

GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

All FTA cannery contracts provide machinery through which the grievances of workers can be promptly and fairly settled. Most contracts provide for a series of stages for adjusting grievances which are not settled between the union stewards and the foremen. Most contracts provide for arbitration of grievances not settled through the regular procedure.

HOLIDAY PAY

A majority of FTA cannery workers get pay for one or more holidays on which they do not work. In addition, practically all workers receive premium pay for holidays and Sundays on which work is performed.

SHIFT BONUS

80% of FTA cannery workers get extra pay for working on late shifts. Many of those whose contracts do not provide premium pay are employed in plants which have but one shift.

CALL-IN PAY

Nearly nine-tenths of our cannery workers are guaranteed pay for reporting to work when no work is available for them. A majority receive four hours or more of call-in pay.

OTHER BENEFITS

Other benefits which are very common in FTA contracts include health and safety protection, full pay for stand-by time, leaves of absence, paid rest periods, pay for time lost because of accidents on the job, clothing and equipment furnished by the employer, union participation in setting up plant rules, and union participation in setting piece rates. Most workers are covered by clauses requiring equal pay for equal work.

These benefits are in striking contrast to the sweatshop conditions which prevailed in these plants before there was a union, and which are found today in non-union canneries covered by phony union contracts such as the "sweetheart" agreement between the AFL Teamsters and the California canning industry.

The facts clearly show that to cannery workers FTA means security, higher wages, decent working conditions, and an end to the second-class citizenship of the sweatshop for which the canning industry has always been notorious.

Recent Primary Results

Primary elections in many localities throughout the nation recently saw victory for a number of PAC-endorsed candidates.

In New York City, PAC and American Labor Party candidates rolled up sizable support from voters in both the Democratic and Republican parties, although in most cases they lost the Republican nomination. Among the victors were Representatives Vito Marcantonio and Adam Clayton Powell. Councilman Eugene Connally and CIO United Electrical Workers Business Agent George Rooney won the ALP nomination but lost the Democratic nomination.

In Milwaukee, Wis., Edmund Bobrowicz, CIO member and CIO-endorsed candidate for Congress won the Democratic nomination.

Sam Downs, Local Secretary of the CIO Mine Mill and Smelter Workers Union was elected justice of the peace in Trona, Calif.

LOCAL 207's PARTICIPATION in the Brooklyn, N. Y., primaries bore fruit in the Republican and American Labor Party nomination of Vincent J. Longhi, candidate for Congress, according to Local 207 Reporter Alice Horan.

Longhi is a veteran of the North African, Sicilian and Normandy invasions.

Leaders in Local 207's campaign for Longhi were President Viola Castagnola and Financial Secretary Rose DeCresenzo.

Frieder cigar strikers and their friends hear Rev. William Spofford, Jr., of New York City at a rally in Wilkes-Barre during the turbulent strike there. Paul Levine of Wyoming Valley Vets Committee also spoke in support of FTA.

Frieder Cigar Workers Win Wilkes Barre Plant

Settlement of the Frieder cigar strike which shook the Wilkes Barre, Pa. mining community, looks certain, as the News goes to press.

Terms include Union recognition, a contract and wage increases in the plant of 400 workers in Wilkes Barre, and wage increases for the 400 workers in the Philadelphia plant, under contract with Local 186.

As FTA opened the campaign to organize some 8,000 workers in the anthracite region of Eastern Pennsylvania, heart of the machine cigar industry, Frieder workers, led largely by vets, quickly responded. When 11 of these vets were fired, the plant struck.

The Philadelphia plant, long organized in FTA, came out in sympathy and to win a wage increase due them under a wage reopening clause.

The picket lines moved solidly in Philadelphia, undisturbed. The story in Wilkes Barre was quite different.

Attacks on the Union there hit an all-time low with the arrest of two miners, both Frieder workers, on the picket line. Judge W. A. Valentine sent a 16-year old girl to the women's ward in the County jail, to keep company with the hardened inmates there, and a 17-year old boy was sent to Kis-lyn detention home.

A defense committee was formed and over 700 names were signed to a petition overnight. The young people were released.

The agreement settling the strike calls for:

Increases in Philadelphia amounting to 10c an hour for hourly workers, and from 15 to 20 percent for piece workers.

A contract in Wilkes Barre to run until February 28, termination date of the Philadelphia contract. The Company is to post in the plant notices signed by both partners stating that Frieder's will not engage in any anti-labor activity against FTA-CIO.

In addition, for Wilkes Barre, maintenance of membership; paid holidays, vacations and other conditions, as in the Philadelphia contract; wage increase of seven cents, and minimum wages for hourly workers of 70c after 90 days; 65c after 60 days, for piece workers.

Strikers Halt Moving Train

By Albert O'Brien, International Organizer

Eight pickets who stood on a railroad track and refused to move from the path of an advancing train thwarted for a week repeated attempts to remove two box cars of lard from the strike-bound Swift Refinery plant in Harvey, La.

Local 309 members struck the plant on July 19 when negotiations for a new contract broke down. The 70 workers have kept the plant closed down tight with 24-hour picket lines.

Negotiations came to a halt when in response to the union's request for three minor amendments, the company countered with demands to remove the maintenance of membership and wage reopening clauses.

Use of Louisiana anti-labor law number 37 limiting the number of pickets failed to get the box cars moving. When the locomotive reached the gates of the struck plant, the entire crew refused to go in and resigned. Finally, it took three railroad officials to load and man the train and get it moving. But by that time, Local 309 had won a moral victory and the lard had spoilt.

The following morning the company agreed to a conciliation meeting which is now going on. Union demands have been revised to a union shop and a general 10c an hour increase. Strikers are still keeping the plant closed tight.

Last March Local 309 won a 16c an hour increase at Swift's bringing the minimum rates up to 76c an hour—highest for the industry in the area.

Strike committee members are Jesse Grosse, Ulrich Poirier, T. Callagan, L. Simoneaux and A. Herbert.

Klein Cigar Strike

The D. Emil Klein cigar strike, involving some 600 workers in New York, New Brunswick and Trenton, N.J., is now entering its third month. Union demands for a union shop and 25c an hour increase were turned down by the company at a meeting on August 12.

Contributions are desperately needed to continue this fight against the D. Emil Klein Company and win our demands. "We've stood up this long and we're determined to win" is the sentiment of the women on strike.

Make contributions payable to the Northeastern Regional Council, 145 E. 103rd St., New York 29, N. Y.

Vets – Here's a Good Labor School

Veterans from all over the United States are using their GI Bill of Rights education money at the California Labor School, accredited by the Veterans Administration.

Courses include Organizing and Union Building; Collective Bargaining; Effective Speaking; Labor's Political Program, and many others, including vocational training in shop skills.

"I couldn't exercise my full rights for education under the GI bill in Mississippi," said a recent vet student. "I'm training here to arm for the fight for real domocracy in the South." The school won a Frank Sinatra-RKO award for good work in improving race relations.

There are no entrance requirements, and the school assists vets in housing and jobs while studying. Courses run from five to 15 weeks. Write the California Labor School, 216 Market St., San Francisco, California for full details.

CIO Solidarity Trounces AFL

Whole-hearted support from the Detroit labor movement, Wayne County Industrial Union Council and local civic, church and youth groups, brought a truce in the four-week long strike of some 300 Frigid Foods workers in Detroit, Mich., for FTA representation.

The strike, which began on July 22 in protest against their forced membership in the AFL Teamsters Union, ended on August 16, at a conciliation meeting before the State Mediation Board between FTA and AFL. FTA filed for an election on July 2.

Daily picket lines were bolstered by representatives of FTA Locals 58 and 281; UAW Locals 600, 735, 208, 212, 2, 3, 7, 51, 174 and 154; CIO National Maritime Union; CIO United Office and Professional Workers; CIO Fur and Leather Workers; CIO Hotel and Bar Workers; CIO Public Workers; National Negro Congress; Peoples Church; American Youth for Democracy and the City-Wide Flying Squad.

"Detroit hasn't seen such a CIO demonstration since the Ford fracas," said International Organizer Chapin K. Armstrong.

Matters came to a head, according to Armstrong, on August 13, when the AFL organizers were ordered to man the trucks and make deliveries. CIO members had some 25 cars mobilized into a flying squadron, circling the plant along with some 450 pickets. When the company truck protected by AFL goons proceeded to leave the plant, it was followed and stopped, even though the goons were armed with baseball bats, steel meat hooks and lengths of chain.

From that time on the AFL stayed strictly within the confines of company property behind the protection of some 150 policemen stationed on company property.

At previous conciliation meetings, Teamster king James Hoffa had bragged that he would operate the plant and that the FTA workers could stay on the street forever. The company also said that all the strikers were fired. However, on August 16 the following terms were agreed upon; a 10c increase in effect since the walk-out; firing of all scabs hired after the walk-out; no discrimination against the 300 striking works; no union dues to be paid or cards to be signed during the interim election waiting period (all 300 workers have already joined FTA); rehiring on strict seniority from the ranks of the striking employees only.

The AFL agreed not to sign another contract before the election. Its present contract is to remain in effect until Sept. 21. And the Company agreed to withdraw its $50,000,000 damage suit against FTA for "loss of business and malicious destruction of property."

The 300 Frigid Foods employees who are signed with FTA fully intend to remain CIO members. They returned to work August 20.

Contributions to Local 58's welfare fund for the strikers came from many CIO unions. The Wayne County Council donated some $1800, and Ford Local 600 donated $100 weekly. Railway Trainmen cooperated by not moving any cars into the plant.

Local 207 Boosts Treasury By $250

Local 207 boosted its local treasury by $250 through a raffle among the Hills Bros. employees in Brooklyn, N.Y.

Winner of the raffle was John Mannis, who got a "basketful of joy"—whiskey to you.

The plant closed down on August 19 for a two-week vacation for all employees.

Local 207 received the sad news of the death of Nunzio Naia, who was killed while serving in the armry of occupation in Munich, Germany.

By Alice Horan, Reporter

NEW LOCAL

Workers at the Marvil Package Company in Laurel, Del., where FTA won an NLRB election 102 to 46 last June, received a charter as Local 103 recently.

Officers of the new local are: Noah Turner, Pres.; Charles Williams, Vice-Pres.; Sarah West, Recording Secy.; and Joseph Crete, Financial Secy.

Local 186 Votes For Assessment

At its last membership meeting, Local 186, Philadelphia, voted for the $3 assessment. The meeting was addressed by International Secretary-Treasurer who told us of the need for the assessment to organize argricultural, tobacco and cannery workers, especially in the South.

Local 186 is supporting a veterans rally being held September 13 for housing, decent jobs and education.

We started a mimeographed local newspaper to keep all the shops in touch with what's happening at each plant and in the local.

By Mabel Spotswood, Reporter

BOOM & BUST.
SO
SO YOU WAKE UP EVERY FINE MORNING AND SEE
PRICES SOARING!
SO YOUR WAGES CAN'T MEET THE RISING COST OF LIVING
• (50% OF FAMILIES IN U.S. EARN LESS THAN $40 A WEEK)
SO YOU KEEP GOING A LITTLE WHILE ON SAVINGS
SO YOU REGRETFULLY CASH IN YOUR COUPLE OF WAR BONDS
SO YOUR BOSS SEES HIS HIGH PRICED PRODUCTS NOW BOUGHT ONLY BY A FEW RICH
SO HE FIRES MOST OF YOU, AND MAKES A FEW PRODUCTS TO SELL HIGH, RATHER THAN MANY SOLD CHEAP
SO ALL WHO AGREE THAT HIGH PRICES AND LOW WAGES ARE THE AMERICAN WAY, SAY AYE!
AYE!

Petition UN To Act On Discrimination

FTA is helping back the National Negro Congress petition to the United Nations Social and Economic Council to investigate the economic, social and political discrimination against 13 million Negro citizens of the United States.

"We feel that all FTA locals will want to assist the National Negro Congress in pressing the United Nations to act," said FTA President Donald Henderson in a letter to all locals accompanying the petitions.

Petitions should be filled out and sent with contributions to the National Negro Congress, 307 Lenox Ave., New York 27, N.Y.

Campbell Locals Celebrate

Campbell Soup workers in Camden, N. J., and Chicago, Ill., voted thunderous approval of the settlement negotiated by their Joint Strike Committee. Pictured above is part of the 4,000-strong Local 80 meeting in Camden's Convention Hall, and at the left, a close-up of some of the 3,000 Chicago Local 194 members who packed Ashland Auditorium.

News of agreement had been flashed from Washington, D. C., five minutes after the picket line had started to swing in Camden, the day before. The strike was immediately called off.

The settlement removed an anti-FTA attack by extending the Camden contract to a new, run-away plant in Salisbury, Maryland, and by pledging the Company to terminate their labor recruiting deal with the AFL Meatcutters and the supposedly independent National Farm Labor "Union." (Full terms of the settlement were reported in last FTA News.)

"Let the Meatcutter union bosses know that FTA will never yield to their attempts to divide the workers," said John Gallagher, President of Local 194. "We have handed them a beating which they will never forget. We have effectively stopped the connivance of the company with illicit unions. Most important, we have liberated the workers of the Salisbury plant of Campbell Soup."

Others who spoke at the Local 194 meeting include Jack Fox, Regional Director; Paul Gardner, Business Manager; George White, Chief Shop Steward for nights; Josephine Chlupsa, Recording Secretary; Veronica Kryzan, Financial Secretary; Henry Gistover and Peter Alec, Vice-Presidents; and John Jurgensohn.

In Camden, where the strike would have started first, the membership was praised for their solidarity through the "war of nerves" which preceded the settlement. "You won this victory —it was the unity and determination of the Campbell Soup workers which finally convinced the Company that they had to give satisfaction," said Anthony Valentino, Local 80 Business Agent.

Regional Director Lewis Bentzley reported that farmers had supported the union, when they knew the facts. One farmer who stood to lose 35 acres of tomatoes in the event of a strike, said: "I'd sooner see my tomatoes rot than be part of the breaking of a workers' union."

Waldo McNutt, President of the Eastern Division of the National Farmers' Union, appeared at the meeting to "express satisfaction in the way the grievance with the Company was adjusted."

Other speakers at the Local 80 meeting included National Secretary-Treasurer Harold J. Lane, Chief Shop Steward Benjamin Butler and Local President Herbert Kling. A member who harangued against the Local 80 leadership was given quiet attention and then roundly booed.

A drive for a 100 percent shop was launched at the Local 194 meeting, resulting in over 300 new members in the following three days alone.

LETTER TO CAMPBELL TOMATO GROWERS PROPOSES FARMER-UNION COOPERATION

IN a letter to tomato growers being distributed on the line of trucks delivering tomatoes to the Campbell Soup plant in Camden, N. J. Herbert Kling, President of Local 80 proposes FTA-CIO cooperation with the farmers, and explains the settlement of the recent dispute.

If a strike had been necessary, 3,000 South Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania farmers who contract tomatoes for Campbell Soup, would have suffered heavy losses.

"Security is a three- way proposition," writes Kling. "Both farmers and workers have rights, as well as companies. We realize that your present tomato contracts with Campbell's give you, the farmer, a one-sided deal — security for this $150,000,000 Company, but no real guarantees for you."

The price — about one and three-quarter cents per pound of tomatoes which Campbell's pays this season, was agreed to last February. Kling mentioned this aspect of the contract which freezes prices, as well as the fact that risks are born by the farmer. In the event of a strike, for instance, the Company cuts loose of the contract, leaving the farmers holding the bag.

"We have come to the conclusion that farmers and workers should be close together so that neither of us can be victimized by Campbell Soup," the letter continues. "We want to cooperate with you. Do you agree?

"Please feel free to drop into our office at any time. We should like to get acquainted with more of you, and to talk over our common problems as working people."

The Local thanked "those farm organizations who assisted us when we were fighting for the life of our Union."

HERBERT KLING, President, Local 80, Camden, N.J.

During the crisis newspaper accounts made it appear as though the Union were pigheadedly threatening to ruin the tomato crop. Except for five meetings of tomato growers where Regional Director Lewis Bentzley and other Union people explained the issues, the farmers did not get a break in learning the facts — how the actions of Campbell Soup provoked the strike situation.

"We were finally able to reach an agreement with the Company which defeated plans they had hatched to break our Union," the letter explains.

"We believe that the agreement means that stable relations have been established, that the Company has finally become convinced that we are here to stay.

"Over a period of years we have established a record of negotiating differences with Campbell's, patiently making every effort to reach agreement peacefully. And we have gradually but steadily won great improvement in the wages and working conditions in the course of six years. We do not intend to lose those gains."

HAROLD J. LANE, FTA Secy.-Treas. and Chairman of the Campbell Soup Strike Comm.

AFL Charters Farm Labor Outfit

The National Farm Labor "Union" (formerly the Southern Tenant Farmers Union) has ended up where it belonged all along. It was chartered August 14 by the AFL.

This is the labor recruiting agency which supplied workers to the Salisbury, Maryland plant of Campbell Soup at $10 a head, and was caught red-handed offering workers for the California canneries, telling the AFL they could "be assured" these workers would vote AFL in the big August FTA-CIO elections.